

unlocking the economic potential of domestic energy resources, while reducing the environmental footprint of fossil fuels. Founded as the Institute of Gas Technology in 1941, the institute worked closely with the Illinois Institute of Technology to train graduate engineers to lead the development of the gas industry. As national focus shifted to gas research and development in the 1970s, the Gas Research Institute took shape to focus on natural gas supply, transportation, distribution, and utilization. In 2000, these two renowned programs united under the GTI umbrella where they continue to build off of past successes as a premier research, development, and training organization serving the global natural gas and energy markets.

GTI's most profound successes are known across the globe. From catalyzing the U.S. shale gas revolution through innovative research and development in the 1980s and 1990s, to helping to put the first hydrogen fuel cell bus on the road in 2006, to its 65 patents on high-efficiency, low-NO_x burners and systems, GTI has a strong industry reputation for innovation and conducting the work necessary to ensure our domestic supplies are utilized to their full potential while national and global priorities continue to shift. Our Nation continues to benefit from GTI's expertise in developing gas distribution technologies and reducing energy delivery costs, as well as innovations in the detection, quantification, and mitigation of methane emissions from the natural gas sector. Its current efforts with the hydraulic fracturing test site will continue this tradition, improving air and water quality by increasing environmentally sustainable extraction methods.

I congratulate and commend GTI for their continued commitment to providing technology-based solutions that expand U.S. energy production and foster economic growth, while also minimizing impacts to the environment. GTI's efforts in the past, present, and future are key to boosting American competitiveness, and I look forward to celebrating future milestones.●

RECOGNIZING THE HARTFORD STEAM BOILER INSPECTION AND INSURANCE COMPANY

● Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, 150 years ago, as the United States and the world advanced out of the industrial revolution, several young businessmen formed the Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company, HSB, in Hartford, CT. I am proud to represent this company and want to congratulate HSB on its 150th anniversary for its vital contribution to the economy of Connecticut, as well as the rest of the Nation.

During the industrial revolution in the mid-to-late 19th century, steam boilers were used to drive industrial machinery, locomotives, and steamboats. Steam-powered engines allowed

for the rapid growth and expansion of industry in the United States; these engines enabled the effective transportation of goods across the country. Steam power also permitted factories in Connecticut to produce and market goods more efficiently than ever before.

The tremendous benefits provided by steam engines and boilers, however, came with considerable risks. During the 1850s, boiler explosions occurred at an estimated rate of once every 4 days. Believing that better materials, better design, and regular inspections could reduce the number of dangerous boiler explosions, in 1857, several Hartford entrepreneurs started "the Polytechnic Club," as a means to discuss practical changes to boilers that could mitigate the chances of worker injury and death. These discussions helped lead to the formation of HSB.

The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company was officially founded in 1866 on the premise that quality boiler inspections would enhance industrial safety, and that insurance provides a valuable financial incentive to ensure businesses conduct these inspections. From its founding, HSB's primary goals have been to improve safety and prevent losses for industrial businesses.

Today HSB continues to set the standard for equipment breakdown insurance, as well as a variety of other insurance products. I am proud to honor this company's long and distinguished role in America's industrial economy. Congratulations to the Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company, and best of luck in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING THE COLUMBUS ASIAN FESTIVAL

● Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to acknowledge the 22st annual Columbus Asian Festival as we celebrate the month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The first Asian Festival was held in 1995 with a mission to promote the importance of cultural diversity in building a vibrant, prosperous, and healthy community. Since then, the Asian Festival continues to fulfill its mission and attracts over 100,000 visitors annually to the central Ohio region.

The Asian Festival offers a variety of activities for the community highlighting the culture of Asia and the Pacific Islands. The values of the Asian Festival include the following: showcasing cultural heritage, advocating the importance of lifelong learning and education, providing a fun and entertaining experience, nurturing community collaboration and strong relationships, fostering a healthy lifestyle and quality of life, and serving with integrity.

Visitors to the Asian Festival will experience hands-on art demonstrations, interactive dance performances, Asian music, Tai chi, martial arts

workshops, Asian games, Asian cuisine, and much more.

I am honored to be participating this year in the Asian Festival during its opening ceremony to see firsthand how this important event celebrates the rich tradition of Asian Pacific heritage and promotes cultural diversity in Ohio.

Congratulations to all who were involved in making it a success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:50 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4909. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5233. An act to repeal the Local Budget Autonomy Amendment Act of 2012, to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to clarify the respective roles of the District government and Congress in the local budget process of the District government, and for other purposes.

At 3:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4974. An act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5243. An act making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, to strengthen public health activities in response to the Zika virus, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 2012. An act to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House insists upon its amendment to the bill (S. 2012) to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the